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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File NumberSee also Nos.102
162158Volume Number
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2/5

DIRECTOR, FBI

1/24/68

SAC, CHICAGO (157-2407) (RUC)

NEGRO INDUSTRIAL AND
ECONOMIC UNION (NIEU)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS
OO: New York

ATT. C.F. AND OR
LIST RECD. 1/24/68

Re New York letter and LHM to Bureau dated 11/22/67.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eleven (11) copies of an LHM captioned as above and suitable for dissemination. Inasmuch as New York and Los Angeles have an interest in this matter, they are being furnished copies for information purposes.

All the information disclosed in attached LHM is contained in the files of the Chicago Division.

The informants who advised in January, 1966, they do not believe Jimmy Brown to be a member of the Nation of Islam were:



leads
OPEN (OR REOPEN) CASE # 10 lead
ORIGIN: Chicago DATE: 2/26/68
SHPV: 1/24/68

Inasmuch as no further leads are outstanding in the Chicago Division, this case is being closed in an RUC status.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)
- 3 - New York (Enc. 3) (INFO) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1) (INFO) (RM)
- 2 - Chicago
(1 - 157-413)

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NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois

January 24, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. CG 157-2407

NEGRO INDUSTRIAL AND
ECONOMIC UNION (NIEU)
INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS

Reference is made to New York memorandum dated November 22, 1967, and captioned as above.

The January 14, 1966, edition of the Cleveland "Plain Dealer," a local daily newspaper, contained an article entitled "Business Interests Grow, Brown Hints Retirement," as a headline in the Sports Section. This article indicates that Jimmy Brown, nationally known football star with the Cleveland Browns, National Football League football team, had hinted in Los Angeles prior to the Pro-Bowl game that this might be his final football game. This article indicated this subject came up in an interview in Los Angeles where Brown talked about two of his business ventures.

The article stated Brown, Cassius Clay and four other men have organized Main Bout, Incorporated, an outfit that will handle closed circuit television and ancillary rights to major boxing matches. The first venture, the article stated, will be the heavyweight champion bout, March 10, 1966, in Chicago, where Clay defends his title against Ernie Terrell. The other organization was indicated to be the Negro Industrial and Economic Union (NIEU) to be organized for the purpose of producing capital for Negro businessmen.

The article stated that Brown said the Main Bout, Incorporated, definitely was not a Clay or Black Muslim idea and proceeds from Main Bout would be invested in Negro businessmen and organizations with the hope of strengthening the economy of the Negro. In referring to both the Main Bout, Incorporated, and NIEU, Brown explained

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JAN 26 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

**RE: NEGRO INDUSTRIAL AND
ECONOMIC UNION (NIEU)**

"Negroes don't own business - big or small. So they don't produce. I feel I must accept this challenge to help my people and they must accept the challenge to help themselves."

The article concluded by stating Brown was "not a member of the Muslim sect but says he has nothing against any religion as long as people go into it voluntarily."

Sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past and who are acquainted with some phases of the Nation of Islam (NOI) in Cleveland, advised in January, 1966, that they know Jimmy Brown personally and do not believe him to be a member of the NOI.

A characterization of the NOI is set forth in the appendix pages of this memorandum. Sources utilized have furnished reliable information in the past.

On March 1, 1966, an article in the Sports Section of the Cleveland "Plain Dealer" written by sportswriter Charles Heaton attacked Cassius Clay for his outburst to his possible induction into the Armed Forces. In this article Heaton stated Jimmy Brown had been seen on television at the time Clay was making his "apology" before the Boxing Commission in Illinois for some remarks he had made. Heaton indicated Jimmy Brown was a friend of Cassius Clay for several years, but had become contaminated because of this association and although Brown's goals were good, both Brown and the NIEU were tarnished by the association with this self-tagged draft dodger.

In a subsequent article by Charles Heaton (March 8, 1966, edition of the "Plain Dealer"), Charles Heaton devoted his daily sports column to allow Jimmy Brown and his business associates to present their rebuttal to the allegation that Brown and the NIEU were contaminated because of their association with Cassius Clay. This article quoted Jimmy Brown as stating, "Cassius and I are friends, but he never has tried to influence me toward the Muslim religion. I would be less of a man if I tried to run away from him now." Brown continued to state: "The things he is saying (concerning the draft) do not appeal to me, but my association with the champion has nothing to do with the NIEU. In business you must deal with many kinds of people."

RE: NEGRO INDUSTRIAL AND
ECONOMIC UNION (NIEU)

An article in the "Cleveland Press," a local daily newspaper, dated November 29, 1965, indicated that a paternity suit had been filed in the Juvenile Court, Cleveland, Ohio, charging Jimmy Brown to be the father of an unborn child of Brenda Ayres, age 18, of Cleveland. This article indicated Miss Ayres had previously charged Brown with assault and battery in an east side motel with the jury in the Municipal Court later finding Brown innocent. An article in the "Cleveland Press" on February 23, 1966, indicated Miss Brenda Ayres, who had accused Jimmy Brown of fathering her unborn child, was filing a civil suit against him based on her assault and battery charge against him in 1965. The article indicated Miss Ayres was expecting her child in late February, 1966.

An article appearing in "Muhammad Speaks," a weekly newspaper published by Muhammad's Mosque No. 2, Chicago, Illinois, dated February 17, 1967, and captioned "Negro Players on Browns Football Team Back Congressman Powell at Detroit Rally," disclosed that Negro members of the Cleveland Browns football team, who are also members of the NIEU, appeared at a public meeting in Detroit to boost support for a one day general strike on Feburary 13, 1967. The one day strike was to protest alleged double standards in Congress with relation to the refusal of Congress to seat Adam Clayton Powell. This article relates the football stars decided to come and were led by Walter Beach, the Browns corner backer. A representative of Jimmy Brown's union appeared with the Reverend C. L. Franklin and other religious and civic leaders who are not identified. This article does not identify the football players who appeared at this meeting.

An article in the "Chicago Daily News," a major Chicago daily newspaper, dated June 5, 1967, and captioned "Athletes Fail to Sway Clay," disclosed a meeting at the headquarters of NIEU was held on June 4, 1967, with Cassius Clay, former Cleveland fullback Jimmy Brown, UCLA's basketball star Lew Alcindor, Boston Celtic's Bill Russell, and seven other athletes. The article disclosed Brown described the meeting as a "heated" discussion with Clay about his position concerning his induction into the Armed Forces. Brown arranged the meeting and said, "We heard his (Clay's) views and know he is completely sincere in his beliefs." The article disclosed Clay ignored the arguments of fellow Negro athletes and stood firm on his refusal to serve in the United States Army.

**RE: NEGRO INDUSTRIAL AND
ECONOMIC UNION (NIEU)**

An article in the "New Crusade," a weekly newspaper published on the south side of Chicago, Illinois, dated June 10, 1967, and captioned "Adamant Clay Refuses to Back Down," discloses the same information as mentioned above concerning the meeting of Brown and Clay with other athletes relative to Clay's position on the draft. This article, however, identifies those in attendance which included Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics, John Wooten of the Cleveland Browns, Gayle Sayers of the Chicago Bears, Bobby Mitchell of the Washington Redskins and Lew Alcindor of the UCLA basketball team.

A confidential source, an agency which collects intelligence data in the Chicago area, advised it has no record concerning the NIEU or its members, as of January 18, 1968.

Cassius Clay, also known as Muhammad Ali, is self-described as a member of the NOI and a follower of Elijah Muhammad.

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APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM, Formerly referred to as the Muslim Cult of Islam, also known as Muhammad's Temples of Islam

In January, 1957, a source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On May 5, 1967, a second source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is the national leader of the Nation of Islam(NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960 MUHAMMAD and other NOI officials, when referring to MUHAMMAD's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. MUHAMMAD claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following MUHAMMAD's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including MUHAMMAD, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised MUHAMMAD had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 2, 1966, a third source advised MUHAMMAD had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to MUHAMMAD, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.